



## Cloud data protection helps university save and innovate.

Christian Brothers University uses single-vendor, VMware-integrated data protection with cloud-based DR and long-term retention to lower admin burden, speed backups and comply with federal regulations.



Education

United States

### Business needs

To protect business and academic data efficiently and cost effectively, Christian Brothers University needed a solution that integrated with their VMware environment and provided easier management. To comply with federal regulations for retaining student records and for timely disaster recovery, they wanted to move to cloud data protection.

### Solutions at a glance

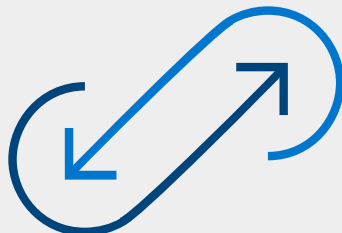
- [IDPA](#)
- [Data Protection Suite](#)
- [Cloud Tier](#)
- [Cloud DR](#)
- [VMware](#)
- [AWS](#)

### Business results

- One-click restore to cloud
- 84:1 deduplication ratio
- Auto-imports backup policies from VMware
- Automatically applies VM security policies to AWS
- Eliminates the need for physical DR site

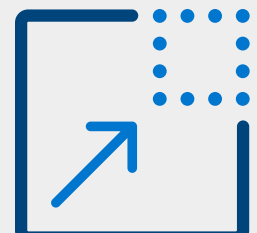
# 84:1

deduplication  
ratio



# Eliminates

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Christian Brothers University, a private university in Memphis, Tennessee, founded in 1871 by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, a Catholic teaching order, was confronting 21st century challenges in protecting their data and retaining it to comply with federal regulations.

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Britt Anderson,  
Supervisor, System Administration,  
Christian Brothers University

Britt Anderson, Supervisor, System Administration, Christian Brothers University, explains the situation that led them to transform their IT with a Dell EMC data protection solution: “We previously were using three separate products to back up virtual machines and physical boxes to an on-premises data repository and then putting them on tape and sending them to a vault. The challenges were staff hours recovering data and staff hours fixing things that should be working.”

## Best in Class

“What drives our IT strategy is the educational opportunities we’re providing our students,” says Anderson. “We have to protect data for the professors, staff members, all the operational expenses and tech for the business and the students’ learning

environment. To meet federal regulations, we have to house student data for a certain amount of time. We also have a lot of research projects going on, where people are really worried about their data, and they want to make sure it’s backed up.”

The university was backing up their data to a Spectra tape library and used Veeam to back up their VMs. “We had a lot of problems with the Spectra library,” Anderson says. “The only problem I had with Veeam was that Veeam charges per-core licensing.

“We looked at a Cohesity hyperconverged solution and, while I kind of liked the platform, it didn’t do everything we needed and it was going to be a learning curve to get all of my engineers on board when they’re otherwise pretty familiar with the Dell products already.”

Christian Brothers University made their strategic move to IDPA DP4400 with Cloud Tier and Cloud DR to AWS, along with a Dell EMC Unity SAN. “The biggest thing that IDPA DP4400 had that Cohesity or other solutions didn’t was one-click restore to the cloud,” says Anderson. “Cloud DR is awesome because instead of having to take down production, take everything on the cloud, I can actually click a button for testing, it will spin the VMs

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up in AWS, and then turn them back off for me, or I could swap over for them for a full test. Also, the IDPA DP4400 lets me back up a VM on any host, as opposed to licensing the cores in just a couple of boxes, as Veeam's solution required."

*"Using the IDPA DP4400, once you see that dedupe and compression, it's kind of hard to go anywhere else. It's awesome."*

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## Peerless Performance and Capacity

"The install of the IDPA appliance itself was fairly easy," says Anderson. "We cabled it up in the data center, and then we actually got on the phone with Dell support and they helped to walk us through it. It probably took three or four hours, tops. The ease of management in the IDPA DP4400 is really nice because you have one central web interface where you can get to every other part of the stack that you would need. The backup times are significantly faster than our old backups once the first backup copy is done. But even the first backup copy was faster than Veeam.

"Capacity-wise the improvement is pretty much incomparable. We were backing up to our local data repository that had no dedupe or compression built

into it. Our dedupe rate right now on the IDPA DP4400 is 84:1. So using the IDPA DP4400, once you see that dedupe and compression, it's kind of hard to go anywhere else. It's awesome."

## VMware Integration Gets High Grades

Their new IDPA DP4400 protects Christian Brothers University's entire VMware environment. "Data Protection Suite software connects to vCenter and backs up all the VMs," says Anderson. "Instead of having to select VMs for backup, I just add a tag in VMware and it auto imports into whichever policy tag is applied to. You don't have to go to the backup interface at all. You can stay inside VMware, make the tag when you set up a VM or a template and it gets auto-added to production, dev or test and then that backup policy applies to it. Our production volumes get auto-tagged for Cloud DR and go to a secondary copy in the cloud, while dev and test just go to a backup policy that just stores them locally."

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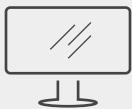
## A Faster Move to Cloud

The university uses Cloud Tier as a replacement for their tape-based long-term retention strategy. “Instead of pulling the tapes out of the vault and sticking them on the tape hardware, we can just pull the VMs down from the cloud or start them in the cloud,” says Anderson, “and we don’t have to worry about anything else.”

Cloud DR gives the university an accessible, off-site copy of their data for the first time. “With Cloud DR, our data is checkable, so we can make sure it works, and I can access it anywhere that’s connected to the internet,” notes Anderson.

“We’re sending upwards of 17 terabytes to the cloud – and that’s after compression and dedupe. When you’re deploying the IDPA DP4400 and setting up the integration to AWS, it auto deploys the VMs to AWS for you and it has built-in security policies, so you don’t have to know or be an expert on AWS security policies. It’s already set up for you.

“The cost effectiveness of the hybrid cloud approach is actually saving us a ton of money as opposed to having in-house hardware and external locations to store the data, along with the ease of use of Cloud Tier and Cloud DR. IDPA DP4400 with Cloud Tier and Cloud DR fits into our IT strategy because it allows us to move applications to the cloud faster. Dell EMC data protection helps us innovate by saving time making sure our workloads are covered.”



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